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Letter dated 20 December 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Egypt, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

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Annex

Letter dated 20 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

[Original: English]

I have the honour to enclose herewith the report presented by the Government of Egypt pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), on the measures taken by Egypt to combat terrorism.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Aboul Gheit**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[...] December 2001

Report submitted by Egypt to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001)

General remarks

1. In compliance with the Security Council's request to all States to submit, within 90 days, to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), adopted on 28 September 2001, a report on the steps taken by them to implement the resolution, the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations hereby submits Egypt's report on that subject.

2. The report presents the legislative, executive and administrative measures implemented in Egypt to combat and suppress the financing of terrorism and other steps and measures currently being taken to strengthen control over contraband and money-laundering operations and fight terrorism in general. It also reviews the steps taken to strengthen international cooperation in the fields covered by the relevant Security Council resolutions either before or after the terrorist events that occurred in the United States of America on 11 September 2001 and the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

3. The guidelines adopted by the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee were relied on to the greatest extent possible in the preparation of the report, account being taken of the overlapping of national legislation and its application to more than one of the cases covered by Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

I. Background on how the Egyptian legislator has dealt with the question of terrorism

4. Upon the emergence of the phenomenon of terrorism, the Egyptian legislator promptly proceeded to include terrorist acts in Egypt's criminal law as serious crimes. Egypt was thus among the first states to deal with the phenomenon of terrorism and its causes, owing to the extremely serious impact of terrorism on the country's social, economic and political interests.

5. Law No. 97 was promulgated in 1992, and a number of provisions dealing with the phenomenon were added to the articles of the criminal code and some procedural and penal laws were enacted to ensure security and social stability, to safeguard citizens' freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and to protect the environment and communications against terrorist acts.

6. Egyptian law does not concern itself solely with the criminalization of terrorist acts committed in Egypt or directed against Egyptian nationals, but also extends the scope of criminality to terrorist acts committed anywhere in the world, irrespective of the nationality of the injured party or parties.

7. The legislator initially took pains to define terrorism in such a way that the range and scope of the definition would ensure that the objectives sought in dealing

with the phenomenon of terrorism and its forms, means, etc., were attained. The definition was as follows:

> For the purposes of this law, "terrorism" means any use of force or violence or any threat or intimidation to which the perpetrator resorts in order to carry out an individual or collective criminal plan aimed at disturbing the peace or jeopardizing the safety and security of society and which is of such nature as to harm or create fear in persons or imperil their lives, freedoms or security; harm the environment; damage or take possession of communications; prevent or impede the public authorities in the performance of their work; or thwart the application of the Constitution or of laws or regulations.

8. The legislator incorporated that definition into criminalizing texts in which he distinguished, knowledgeably and painstakingly, those crimes which come under terrorist activities and the judicial elements that constitute such crimes. In so doing he did not confine himself to the forms of those activities that had already manifested themselves at the time, but rather extended his legislative vision to include new forms or shapes into which terrorism might become transformed or new means it might adopt in the future in order to achieve its objectives.

II. Legislative and executive measures taken to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts in accordance with operative paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (d), and operative paragraph 2, subparagraph (a), of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

9. Egyptian law treats factors contributing to and sources serving as a basis for terrorist acts and activities as criminal, as follows:

(a) Article 86 (a) of the penal code provides the penalty of execution or lifelong hard labour for the supplying of groups, gangs or other terrorist formations with weapons, ammunition, explosives, materials, instruments, funds or information that assist them in carrying out their aims;

(b) The code also establishes penalties (under articles 88 (b), 97 and 98) for anyone who invites another to join even a mere agreement aimed at the commission of crime in connection with terrorist activity, even if his invitation is not accepted, and for anyone who has knowledge of the existence of a plan to commit such crimes and fails to inform the authorities thereof.

10. Regarding prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorist acts, the following should be noted:

(a) With a view to abolishing the phenomenon of terrorism, Egyptian law criminalizes the collection of contributions, irrespective of the name by which they are designated, without the obtainment of a permit for that purpose from the governmental authority concerned. This permits State supervision of contributions and donations to ensure that they are spent for legitimate purposes and not used in ways that go against the safety and security of society, and the consequent control and limitation of the resources of terrorist groups and organizations;

(b) With regard to the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) concerning the prohibition against making any funds, financial assets, economic resources or financial services available to persons who commit or assist in the commission of terrorist acts, the procedure applied in banks is as follows:

The opening of accounts by a foreign person or entity to receive contributions for any purpose whatsoever requires the prior approval of the national security authority, so as to ensure that the identity of the person or entity receiving the contributions is properly ascertained and that the purposes for which the contributed funds are being used are genuine;

The opening of accounts for contributions within the Arab Republic of Egypt is subject to controls established by the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs;

(c) Some laws permit the supervisory authorities to obtain, in certain cases, the necessary information to enable them to stop the financing of any illegal operations, which may include terrorist operations. Those laws comprise the following:

The bank secrecy law, which allows the attorney general or any chief public prosecutor empowered thereby to apply to the Court of Appeal of Cairo for an order to examine or obtain any data or information if so required to ascertain the facts in a felony or misdemeanour the existence of which is indicated by substantial evidence;

The banking and credit act, which established strict rules governing bank registration and the supervisory controls with which they are required to comply in the conduct of their business. Capital market law No. 95 of 1992 also established strict rules governing the conduct of business by other financial institutions. The establishment of financial entities that might be used as a means of providing financing or the necessary support for terrorist acts is thus prevented;

Socialist public prosecutor law No. 34 of 1971, as amended by law No. 95 of 1980, which permits the imposition of custodianship over an individual's property if there exists substantial evidence that his assets have grown as a result of unlawful operations;

The illicit gains law, which involves looking into the sources of wealth that is disproportionate to the income of persons employed in the Government, the public sector or public agencies;

The penal code, which provides penalties for the concealment of objects that have been stolen or have been obtained by felony or misdemeanour.

11. *Draft law on money-laundering*

In keeping with the measures adopted by the Government of Egypt against the crime of money-laundering, a review of the legislation relating to the fight against money-laundering operations is now being conducted within the Egyptian legal system and proposals are being made concerning the legislative measures that might be required for the overall control of such operations. The committee created by decision of the Minister of Justice has adopted the following main points for the draft law being prepared:

(a) The draft law should be aimed at fighting the laundering of illicit money and endorsing a declaration for the strengthening of international cooperation in that field, in accordance with the approach followed in the case of all the legislation referred to above, i.e., the devoting of independent legislation to this phenomenon.

This is in line with the instructions of the Financial Action Task Force on Money-Laundering (FATF), which has undertaken to assess the degree of international cooperation in this area;

(b) Activities involving the laundering of illicit money must be considered as constituting a crime independent of the crimes from which, or from the proceeds from which, such money has been derived. It is essential to establish deterrent penalties that are commensurate with the gravity of the offence and show seriousness and effectiveness in combating the phenomenon;

(c) The meaning of "money" under the law should be defined in a broad way so as to include all assets, whether corporeal or incorporeal, movable or fixed, including securities of all natures;

(d) The financial institutions to which the provisions of the law apply must be defined so as to include banks, companies which engage in brokerage and insurance activities in that area, companies dealing in securities, money-changing companies, investment companies and funds, postal funds, enterprises which provide recreational and travel services, amusement centres and gambling casinos and other similar financial institutions to which the provisions of the law should apply;

(e) The crimes to which the provisions of the law against the laundering of money derived from them are to apply should be defined broadly, according to the gravity of the crime in question, to include all types of crimes that are a matter of international concern in connection with the fight against money-laundering and require a common international struggle in that regard, the most important of which are crimes relating to terrorism, drugs, bribery, embezzlement, smuggling through customs, kidnapping, trafficking in and smuggling of arms and munitions or art works and antiquities and other organized crime;

(f) Money-laundering activities should be defined to include all conduct which involves acquiring, disposing of, managing, keeping, replacing, depositing, investing, transporting or transferring money (in the broad sense) with a view to concealing or misrepresenting its source, changing the facts relating to it, preventing ascertainment of the fact that it was derived from any of the crimes referred to or impeding access to the person or persons who committed the crime from which the money was derived;

(g) A central agency responsible for fighting money-laundering should be created. The agency should enjoy elements of autonomy and should have experts qualified to assume the responsibilities and meet the requirements of that fight. It should have a mandate to enable it to obtain data, conduct inquiries, exchange information with other States and coordinate with control authorities, namely: the Central Bank of Egypt, for banks and money-changing companies; the insurance control board, with regard to insurance companies and funds; and the money market authority, for the various types of securities companies and investment funds;

(h) The rules governing the attachment of illicit assets should be codified. Such rules also cover the confiscation of such assets and the disposal of the confiscated funds even if they were derived from a crime covered by the law which occurred outside Egypt, owing to international cooperation requirements;

(i) The rules governing the reporting and recording of monetary operations and the reporting of suspicious operations, the obligations incumbent on financial institutions in that regard and the related duties of the control authorities should be codified;

(j) In the future, a special chapter should be devoted to the rules governing international cooperation relating to requests received from competent foreign authorities for the ascertainment of the nature of specific assets or monies and for tracing proceeds from crimes which come under the law; the authorization of the competent judicial authority in Egypt to order the tracing, freezing or provisional seizure of monies or proceeds of money-laundering crimes; and permission to recognize any judicial order or judgement calling for the confiscation of such monies or proceeds and originating in a competent judicial authority or court in another State towards which Egypt has obligations under a ratified convention.

12. *Preventing the supplying of terrorists with weapons and halting the enlistment of members of terrorist groups*

Numerous measures have been adopted and implemented, as follows:

(a) Fundamental and absolute prohibition, by Egyptian legislation, of the acquisition and possession of weapons and ammunition except by permit from the competent Government authority. The penalty for the crime of acquiring or possessing firearms and ammunition is aggravated if they are used, or intended for use, in an activity which constitutes a disturbance of the peace and public safety in the country;

(b) Intensification of monitoring and control operations in border areas and entry/exit points in coordination with the various State organs concerned, with a view to preventing the smuggling of weapons and their entry into the country;

(c) Establishment of sensitive mechanisms to strengthen the control of arms trafficking or transport operations within the framework of the law in such a way as to guarantee that terrorist elements do not gain access to such arms;

(d) Expansion of the sphere of security interaction in dealing with centres and meeting places of persons who engage in unlicensed arms trade;

(e) Detection of movements of criminal elements that deal in unlicensed arms and ammunition, with emphasis on the raiding of any place where arms, ammunitions or explosives are manufactured illegally;

(f) The periodic taking of meticulous measures to destroy weapons and ammunition seized from criminal or terrorist elements, so as to prevent them from being circulated again;

(g) Tightening of the control and supervision of the circulation of explosive materials lawfully employed (in quarries, mines, etc.) by means of well thought-out mechanisms and measures for monitoring the movements of such materials and ascertaining the purpose and place of their use;

(h) In addition, article 86 (b) of the penal code provides the penalty of lifelong hard labour for attempting to coerce a person to join any terrorist group or band or preventing any person from leaving such a group.

III. Legislative and executive measures to give effect to operative paragraph 1 (c) of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

13. Among the steps decided for the control and monitoring of the financial resources of terrorist elements, bank secrecy law No. 205 of 1990, as amended by law 97 of 1992, which allows the attorney general or any public prosecutor empowered thereby to order directly the examination or obtainment of data or information related to accounts, deposits, trusts, safes or safety deposits where so required to ascertain the facts in any crime provided for in book two, chapter II, part 1, of the penal code, i.e., the part in which reference is made to terrorist crimes.

14. Article 98 (e) of the penal code provides that assets which have been proven to be earmarked for expenditure on terrorist groups or organizations must be confiscated.

15. *Economic measures adopted by the Central Bank*

On 23 October 2001 the Central Bank of Egypt sent a memorandum including the economic steps taken by it in response to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, which states the following:

(a) The Central Bank of Egypt, immediately upon receiving lists containing the names of persons and organizations connected with terrorist acts, issues immediate instructions requesting all the banks under its supervision (as well as Arab International Bank) to freeze all private accounts and funds connected with the persons and organizations whose names have been received by the Central Bank and to report to it what action they have taken;

(b) It is clear in this regard that the funds belonging to such persons and organizations which are on hand in banks do not necessarily include all such assets owned by them. Consequently, further steps must be taken to comply fully with the provisions of the Security Council resolution;

(c) In June 2001 the Central Bank of Egypt issued control standards for the registered banks under its supervision concerning the regulation of procedures for opening client accounts and other banking procedures. Included were the standards with which such banks are required to comply when opening accounts for any person, whether natural or artificial, and which are based primarily on the "know your client" principle, which means obtaining the necessary documents for ascertaining the identity of the client and maintaining adequate records on clients and the operations carried out by them for a period of not less than five years. The standards also involve paying particular attention to cash deposit operations, business transacted on clients' accounts, transfers, transactions carried out across borders and other banking operations, so as to ascertain whether such operations are in keeping with the nature of the client's activity and to detect any unusual operations. These standards are in keeping with the recommendations issued by FATF relating to the fight against money-laundering;

(d) The Egyptian banking federation has also created a committee to study the problem, prepare the necessary studies and examine those received by the committee from foreign and local quarters as well as those submitted by the members of the committee themselves. Following its study, the committee issued a set of recommendations to be submitted to the Central Bank of Egypt preliminary to

their adoption, to be followed once they have been adopted by the Bank. They are as follows:

Non-maintenance of any accounts of persons or entities whose identity is unknown or accounts opened under fictitious names;

Adoption of appropriate measures for obtaining verifiable information on clients for whom accounts are opened at the bank or for whom operations are transacted;

Maintenance, for a sufficient period under the law, of records on customers and on transactions carried out locally or internationally, so that such records will be ready and available whenever requested by the competent authorities;

Monitoring of the profiles of questionable operations to enable the banking administration to take a decision regarding them;

Training and capacity-building for employees of the various banks in recognizing suspicious transactions; procedures and policies for dealing with such transactions; and legal procedures relating to money-laundering operations;

Preparation by the Egyptian banking federation, through the committee created within it to study money-laundering, of a training programme for bank employees;

Application of measures to combat money-laundering to various banking products, such as plastic money and onlending operations, through investigation and the obtaining of the requisite data on any client requesting a loan secured by his deposits in a foreign country.

IV. Executive and administrative measures pursuant to operative paragraph 2 (b) of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

16. *Early warning to other States through the exchange of information*

(a) Numerous bilateral and multilateral conventions have been concluded on cooperation in the area of security to enhance the exchange of information and expertise on terrorist organizations, their leaderships, officers, arms and ammunition, means of financing and communication channels as well as their links to organized crime;

(b) Cooperation has been strengthened with the security authorities in various countries with a view to crushing terrorist activity and identifying the places where terrorist elements are located and trained, their channels of communication and their sources of financing. In addition, many terrorist leaders and cadres have been apprehended, repatriated and brought to justice;

(c) The working mechanisms of international organizations (International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior of the League of Arab States, Organization of African Unity, Organization of the Islamic Conference, etc.) have been utilized to make known and exchange available information on the activities and membership of terrorist organizations among member States.

V. Legislative, executive and administrative measures to give effect to operative paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 1373 (2001)

17. In this connection — and to ensure that terrorists do not have access to any support or assistance and do not find any safe haven — the draft prohibits all persons from concealing, shielding, giving refuge or offering any assistance in any manner whatsoever to anyone against whom there exists substantial evidence of his engaging in an activity constituting a breach of the peace and public safety. It provides a penalty of imprisonment for anyone who violates this prohibition.

18. *Denial of sanctuary to anyone connected with terrorism*

(a) Egypt was a pioneer among the countries of the world in adopting numerous stringent legal and security measures to abort the activities of terrorist organizations at home and abroad and destroy their organizational structure;

(b) Rigorous legal and administrative measures have been adopted to deal with non-Egyptian terrorist elements suspected of belonging to foreign and Egyptian terrorist organizations or elements thereof that have fled the country;

(c) As a result, terrorist organizations and their cadres that are not Egyptian have experienced difficulty in finding within Egyptian territory places in which to hide or organizational stations in which to conduct their terrorist activities or from which to carry out their plans;

(d) The positive relations existing with various security authorities in different countries have been turned to account to create a constantly updated data base on all non-Egyptian terrorist organizations, to enter the names of members of those organizations in arrival anticipation lists and to prevent entries into the country via the legal points of entry;

(e) Egypt has taken the initiative to warn all States monitoring the information on the existence of Egyptian terrorist elements in them that they should be apprehended and repatriated or turned over to the judicial authorities in the States in which they are located.

VI. Legislative and executive measures to give effect to operative paragraph 2 (d) of resolution 1373 (2001)

19. Inasmuch as Egypt is an active member of the international community and is bound by conventions and covenants in which the legislative treatment of this phenomenon was not confined to dealing with terrorist acts that might take place within its territory, but rather extended to terrorist elements carrying on their activity from abroad as well as those planning such activity within the country, even if the terrorist acts in question were not aimed at Egypt:

(a) Article 77 (f) of the penal code provides a penalty for mustering troops or carrying out hostile activity against a foreign country;

(b) Article 86 (d) of the same code provides a penalty for belonging to any terrorist association, body, organization or group, irrespective of its name or designation, which has its headquarters outside the country and uses terrorism or military training as a means of achieving its objectives, even if its acts are not directed against Egypt.

VII. Legislative and executive measures to give effect to operative paragraph 2 (e) of resolution 1373 (2001)

20. In view of the considerable visible danger of terrorism, the legal texts regarding terrorist acts provide severe penalties for the perpetrators thereof and persons cooperating with them, the maximum penalty being death and the minimum being lifelong hard labour in the case of persons convicted of the crimes provided for in the law, subject to the proviso that terrorism is one of the means employed in committing them.

VIII. Executive and administrative measures to give effect to operative paragraph 2 (g) of resolution 1373 (2001)

21. *Intensification of measures to prevent the movement of terrorist elements across borders*

Action to secure borders and points of entry and exit by land, sea and air is considered the basic line of the country's defence against all threats directed against the security and stability of Egyptian society. Within a framework of coordinated effort among the authorities concerned within the country, many decisive steps have been taken to prevent the movement of terrorist elements across Egypt's borders, in addition to the following measures:

(a) Stepping up the pursuit of fugitive terrorist elements in order to accelerate their apprehension in suspected hiding places, broadening and tightening control at all points of entry and exit by land, sea and air and providing them with modern equipment for detecting falsified documents, weapons and explosives;

(b) Coordinating with the security authorities in Egypt's neighbouring countries with a view to taking coordinated steps to prevent the infiltration or entry of terrorist elements into Egyptian territory;

(c) Enhancing the performance of persons employed within security authorities that secure exit/entry points and supporting them with specialists trained in the detection of the most recent means of falsification to which terrorist elements might resort in order to enter or leave the country;

(d) Providing border crossing points with the most up-to-date information, data and photographs available on terrorist elements and cadres and the means used by them to cross borders;

(e) Bolstering the security presence at the various border crossing points, enhancing the efficiency of guarding and security systems, broadening the database of suspected persons and dealing therewith according to the nature of each border area.

IX. Operative paragraph 2 (f) and operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1373 (2001) — Egyptian anti-terrorist efforts in the area of international and regional agreements

22. The Arab Republic of Egypt was one the first States to call upon the countries of the world to combat the phenomenon of international terrorism. It was also one of the few States to sign the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism, to which only 24 States have acceded. Egypt has also contributed towards an effective discussion of the phenomenon of international terrorism in the United

Nations and the regional mechanisms and organizations in which it participates. Within the framework of the League of Arab States, for example, Egypt held a Conference of Arab Ministers of the Interior and Ministers of Justice in Cairo in April 1998 and succeeded in bringing about the conclusion of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, which was signed by all the Arab countries on 22 April 1998 and entered into force in May 1999.

23. In this connection, it should be pointed out that the executive measures of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism are in force and actually implemented, as indicated below:

Part one: machinery for the implementation of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, which comprises two sections

The first: executive measures for cooperation in the judicial and security fields (exchange of information, investigative procedures and apprehension of fugitives; exchange of research, studies and expertise; holding of joint training courses; extradition of criminals; letters rogatory; trial of indicted persons — exchange of evidence);

The second: forms for completing the procedures referred to above (52 forms).

Part two: questionnaire for monitoring and assessing the effective implementation of the Convention

The questionnaire is distributed to the Arab countries yearly after being prepared by the Arab Criminal Police Office of the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior. It is filled in by the specialized departments of the ministries of the interior and of justice (in each country) by means of answers to the questions contained in it, which cover all 42 articles of the Convention.

24. It is worth pointing out that this Convention was the first international instrument to venture a definition of terrorism and the crime of terrorism. It defined *terrorism* as follows: "Terrorism is any act of violence or threat, irrespective of its motives or objectives, which occurs in implementation of an individual or collective criminal plan and is intended to sow terror among people or fear that they will be harmed; to jeopardize their lives, freedoms or security; to cause harm to the environment, public or private facilities or property, or to occupy or take possession of them; or to endanger any national resource.

25. Definition of the *crime of terrorism*: According to the Convention, this is any crime or attempted crime committed in accordance with a terrorist aim in any contracting State or against citizens, property or interests of such State which is punishable under the internal law thereof. Terrorist crimes are considered as including crimes against which provisions exist in subsequent treaties or agreements, except as otherwise provided in the legislation of the contracting States or where not ratified thereby.

26. Supplementary agreements to define the nature of the crime of terrorism within the meaning of the Arab Convention [and] the conventions referred to in the previous item which complete that definition are as follows:

(a) The Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963;

(b) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970;

(c) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 23 September 1971) and the related protocol signed at Montreal on 10 May 1984;

(d) The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, signed at New York on 14 December 1973;

(e) The International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, signed on 17 December 1979;

(f) The 1983 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as it relates to piracy at sea;

(g) The 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation;

(h) The 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf;

(i) The 1991 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

Pursuant to the rule, contained in the Arab Convention, concerning reference to those instruments, the provisions of those Conventions and Protocols relating to terrorist crimes are considered as part of the Arab Convention. It is worth noting that the definition adopted in the Arab Convention coincides in large measure with the definition contained in article 86 of the Egyptian penal code promulgated by the above-mentioned law No. 97 of 1992.

27. The Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior decided, at its fourteenth session, held in Tunis on 4 January 1997, to establish an Arab anti-terrorist strategy. A resolution for the creation of a mechanism to implement it was adopted at the most recent meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, held in Jordan on 30 January 1999.

28. Egypt has also ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism adopted by the Organization of African Unity and, within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in February 1998 Egypt hosted the Cairo meetings of the team of governmental experts that drafted a code and rules of procedure for combating international terrorism with a view to strengthening cooperation between Islamic States and reaffirming Islam's rejection of terrorism. Egypt has ratified the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism.

29. It should be mentioned that Egypt has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, referred to in operative paragraph 3, subparagraph (d), of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and is currently taking the related constitutional steps. Furthermore, Egypt has signed the International

Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and is at present taking steps for its ratification.

30. In addition to the foregoing, the Arab Republic of Egypt is in constant communication with various countries of the world with a view to enhancing anti-terrorist cooperation, especially through the conclusion of legal assistance treaties which guarantee the extradition of criminals who have been sentenced or are wanted for trial, or at least to ensuring the greatest possible transparency in the exchange of information and assistance in legal and security matters. Considerable advances have been made along these lines, most notably in the conclusion of a number of bilateral treaties with European and African States, such as Hungary, Poland, Romania, Italy and South Africa, and legal cooperation treaties with Arab countries.

31. It should also be pointed out that the Egyptian Ministry of Justice has made it a practice, with regard to the legal cooperation agreements concluded by it on crime and the extradition of criminals, to provide that crimes of terrorism are not to be considered political crimes for which extradition will be denied. Such agreements, by way of example and without limitation, include those contained in article 3 of the convention on the extradition of criminals between the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Government of the Italian Republic and in article 4 of the convention on the extradition of criminals between the Government of Egypt and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.